



# San Diego City Attorney **MICHAEL J. AGUIRRE**

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **CHARGES FILED AGAINST A MEMBER OF THE MINUTEMAN PROJECT, A VIGILANCE OPERATION**

**San Diego, CA:** Nine misdemeanor criminal charges have been filed by the Criminal Division in the City Attorney's Office against John Matthew Monti for battery and interfering with the civil rights of two day laborers and falsifying a crime report with the San Diego Police Department. The 36-year old defendant resides outside San Diego County, and he is affiliated with the Minuteman Project, a vigilance operation monitoring immigration.

The charges filed by the City Attorney's Office against Monti include four (4) counts of battery, four (4) counts of interference with civil rights, and one (1) count of filing a false crime report to a peace officer. The case number is M014004.

The incident occurred on November 18, 2006 in Rancho Penasquitos, near Rancho Penasquitos Blvd where day laborers often gather to find jobs. The City Attorney alleges that defendant Monti began taking photographs of the workers and shouted racial slurs. One of the victims, Estanislao Gonzales, walked away from the defendant because Monti was sticking his camera in Gonzales' face. The victim tried to walk away but Monti began punching him. Roberto Pena is the second victim and is also a day laborer. Pena tried to help Gonzales get away but was also assaulted by Monti. Immediately after the incident, Monti contacted the police, claiming he had been robbed and assaulted by 6-8 migrant workers.

John Monti is to appear in court on April 13, 2007 at 12:30 p.m.

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